ON THE DEFECTION OF AN OPPORTUNIST

By his perfidious collaboration, present and future, in the publication Bastard Angel which contemptibly reduces surrealism to merely one 'tendency' among many others in a melange of literary celebrities, and by abetting its reproduction of graphic works by surrealist comrades around the world without their knowledge or consent, Stephen Schwartz has demonstrated that he is obviously morally disqualified from further participation in surrealist activity.

Among the recent manifestations of his bad faith, indicating his evident eagerness to betray everything he has professed to defend during his passage in the surrealist movement, it suffices to cite only a few: his ceaseless lying, malicious gossip, flagrant displays of hypocrisy, silly defamations of nearly everyone in our movement, self-righteous histrionics, and an all-pervasive petty-bourgeois pompousness carried to laughable extremes--all signifying his bellycrawling accommodation to the miserable etiquette of the doddering literary/ academic family from which he hesitantly emerged a few years ago.

The social roots of this defection are unmistakable: opportunism signifies a loss of confidence in the possibilities of proletarian revolution -- a mood Schwartz shares with nearly all petty-bourgeois "intellectuals" (which is one reason why we continue to regard these "intellectuals" with contempt and scorn).

We have tolerated many of Schwartz's juvenile, unprincipled, compromising and dishonest antics in the past, hoping they were merely temporary afflictions which might be overcome. But his complete dishonor throughout the last eight weeks, during which he has evidenced only a disgraceful renunciation of the first principles of surrealism and a spineless indifference to every bond of friendship and solidarity, demonstrates that he has definitively defected from our movement and openly sided with those whom he himself, a couple of months ago, correctly recognized as the enemies of freedom.

Such venal violations of the most elementary comradely trust and confidence can be regarded only as proof of Schwartz's treachery, cowardice and utter swinishness. Obviously, therefore, his further collaboration in surrealist activity is out of the question.

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Postscript:

Schwartz's hypocritically conciliatory letter to Franklin Rosemont, dated 29 November 1974, is a preposterous, transparent sham calculated to throw dust in the eyes of those who have been spared the opportunity to witness his treachery first-hand. This latest dishonest ploy confirms and even deepens our mistrust of Schwartz who, from now on, must be considered nothing more than a renegade, informer and groveling opportunist in search of whatever cheap "success" has been opened for him by his capitulation to the decaying remants of bourgeois "culture."

for the Surrealist Movement in the United States,
(signed)

Thom BURNS Jean-Jacques Jack DAUBEN Robert DAY Paul GARON

Joseph JABLONSKI Timothy R. JOHNSON Jocelyn KOSLOFSKY

Wayne KRAL Philip LAMANTIA Ronald Lee PAPP Janet PARKER Nancy PETERS

Franklin ROSEMONT Penelope ROSEMONT Laurence WEISBERG

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